

SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INTELLOFAX 9

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

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SUBJECT Latvian Coastal Controls

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1. The only Latvian frontier which is guarded is that along the coast from Cape Kolkasrags to the former Lithuanian border. No other Latvian frontiers are guarded.
2. The Latvian coast is guarded by Soviet frontier guard units which contain no Latvian personnel. There are watchtowers built along the coast, which are manned by frontier guard soldiers. The stretches between the watchtowers are patrolled at irregular intervals.
3. There is no direct evidence that the frontier guards employ radar and listening equipment, but it is thought that they may do so.
4. All fishing boats and other vessels sailing from Latvian ports into the Baltic Sea (as distinct from the Gulf of Riga) must, prior to leaving port, pass through a frontier control point. This also applies to vessels returning to Latvian ports from the Baltic.
5. Every member of the crew of a vessel sailing into the Baltic must be in possession of a special permit to sail into the open sea.
6. [REDACTED] Soviet patrol boats in the Straits of Irbe and along the Baltic coast of Latvia are armed with heavy machine guns and 35 mm cannon; their speed is about 20 knots and they are oil burners.
7. Patrol boats are based at Lepaya and Ventspils and patrol along the coast within sight of the shore; fishermen only very occasionally encounter them further out to sea. Fishing boats moving along the coast between Ventspils and Pavilosta have repeatedly been stopped by patrol boats.
8. Fishing boats are very thoroughly checked by the frontier guards when leaving and returning to port. Depending on the type of fishing, fishermen usually are permitted to remain at sea up to 48 hours.
9. Since fishing boats belong to a fishing kolkhoz or artel, the crew is never certain in advance as to which boat they will sail.

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